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President's Report

Greetings to all our readers

Another month has passed, and autumn is definitely on its way!!! Mt Egmont has had a dusting of snow, which has subsequently disappeared. The farmers have had their much needed rain ... however it was a little late to help most dairy farmers !!!

We have been very lucky on our farm to have a good supply of mushrooms lately... and most fortunate that the eczema usually associated with an abundance of mushrooms is not around! Wow, do these mushrooms have a different taste from the ones that can be bought in the shops ... it is truly unbelievable! We have been eating them like an extra vegetable and can't believe our luck that these

delectable favourites are still growing on our farm! The cold snap didn't even bother them! However, like everything, I am sure that it will come to an abrupt end soon. I guess the delicious flavour is like anything that is home grown or home made ... cakes and biscuits are certainly far nicer home made...fresh fruit and vegetables from the garden are far superior to the bought ones...one's own meat is much better tasting than the butcher's...and so it goes on....

We, at the Taranaki Swiss Club, are all looking forward to venturing south for the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand to be held in Wellington on Queen's Birthday Weekend. Be assured that if you join in, you will have a fun-

filled weekend and meet many friends, or certainly make new ones. The members of the Wellington Swiss Club are a very happy, friendly bunch and are very, very good hosts ... come and decide for yourself. It would be wonderful to see as many people as possible in Wellington, and I know that the Wellingtonians would love to see you. Of course, as always the final of the cowbell competition will be held...but whether you are involved in this or not, you can have a lot of fun watching!

The committee of the Swiss Society would love to see you and put faces to names!

Regards to you all, and see you soon.

Marianne

Obituary



Marta Fluhler



Marta Fluhler died on 30th March 2003. She was a stalwart supporter of the Taranaki Swiss Club. Italian in origin, she married Paul in the 1950s and devoted her life to looking after him (his death in 1997 devastated her). They farmed for a time in South Taranaki, and from there moved to New Plymouth. Although they had no children of their own, she loved children and enjoyed spoiling them with sweets, chocolates, biscuits and lemonade (in times when such things were only the rare treats of Christmas and Easter).

Marta was a great lover of animals and would feed her own, the neighbours' and any stray cats which were lucky enough to cross her path. She would never hesitate to berate any person who she considered was being cruel to animals. She loved the company of people and was an incorrigible flirt. Marta loved to shop and have cappuccinos - the proliferation of cafes in recent times was such a delight to her - reminiscent perhaps of earlier times in Europe. She would stop and talk with everyone on her many walks - everyone knew Marta - her flame coloured hair, her flamboyant clothes and her delight in people ensured she had many friends.

She will be very sadly missed by many, but especially by us - her family.

Helen Zimmerman-Hall



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Coop profit grows

Switzerland's second largest retailer, Coop, appears to be closing the gap on its main rival, Migros.

On Tuesday, Coop announced a 9.6 per cent increase in net profit last year to SFr331 million (\$237 million).

It said turnover also increased by seven per cent.

On Monday, Migros - the biggest retail chain - reported a 30 per cent fall in profit.



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